

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC034797
Inspector	Louise Redfern
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	Norfolk County Council Children's Services
Registered person address	Norfolk County Council, Chief Executives County Hall, Martineau Lane NORWICH NR1 2DH
Responsible individual	Peter James Ronan
Registered manager	Neil Marjoram
Date of last inspection	30/01/2015

Inspection date	25/03/2015
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Previous inspection	good
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged good at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

The majority of young people have remained in placement since the last inspection. One young person has moved onto semi-independent living accommodation. The staff team have continued to offer high levels of support to young people and remain committed to securing positive outcomes for them.

Care planning continues to be highly individualised and child-centred. Staff and young people have developed strong relationships built on trust, consistent practice, routines and boundaries. Professionals comment on the positive impact the placement is having on individual young people. One social worker commented: 'Through consistent boundaries in the home, this young person has taken massive steps forward.'

At the last inspection four areas for improvement were identified. The Registered Manager has addressed each of these areas. HMCI now receives the Statement of Purpose as revisions are made, this ensures updates to the service are reviewed and monitored.

The Registered Manager has improved the consultation process with parents and professionals. Regular updates are now shared with parents and professionals about the progress of individual young people; this process is then combined with an opportunity to gain feedback about the home. The Registered Manager is yet to complete an internal monitoring report following the last inspection. However, he has already secured formal feedback about the quality of care in the home from professionals, which will be incorporated into the report and help to identify areas for improvement to drive forward the quality of care in the home.

The whole management team have recently attended young people's meetings. This means the opportunity to capture views around the quality of care in the home has

broadened and improvements to the home are being made. For example, young people now have control over a separate budget, which has previously been used to repair minor damage in the home; therefore if no damage occurs in the home over a period of a month this budget can be used as directed by the young people for improvements to the home. This enables young people to understand the impact of their behaviour on the home and supports them to be in control of items purchased, for example, they are saving money to buy a games console for the home.

The Registered Manager leads by example and promotes a good quality of care. He has a good understanding of the home's strengths and weaknesses. He has developed feedback sheets for young people to complete for staff members as part of the individual appraisals process; this will ensure their views are captured when appraisals are carried out.

Since the last inspection, improvements have been made to ensure young people who are post 16 are engaged in education, employment or training. The staff team have supported all young people to engage in either education or employment. For one young person this has meant he has become self-employed and secured work as a car valet at a local car sales showroom. He has also secured a full time college placement for September 2015. One educational professional commented: 'We work together to promote education, as a result positive relationships are developed.'

No areas for improvement were identified at this inspection.

Information about this children's home

This home provides long-term residential care for up to six young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties. The home is owned and operated by the local Children's Services Department.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/01/2015	Full	good
27/03/2014	Interim	good progress
18/04/2013	Full	good
01/10/2012	Interim	good progress

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.